

Montana Drought Advisory Committee



Montana Department of
Agriculture

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Director

Just What the Doctor Ordered



April 27, 2006

April moisture improves winter wheat



April 27, 2006



Montana Prospective Plantings

March 2006

	2006 Intentions (1,000)	2005 Planted (1,000)	% Change
All Wheat	5,500	5,340	+3
Winter Wheat	2,000	2,150	-7
Durum Wheat	450	590	-24
Other Spring Wheat	3,050	2,600	+17
Barley	800	900	-11



Montana Prospective Plantings March 2006

Planted acres	2006	2005	%Change
All hay (harv) (million ac)	2.9	3.0	-3
Sugar beets	52,600	53,900	-2
Dry edible beans	18,000	18,000	0
Canola	16,000	17,000	-6
Flaxseed	45,000	55,000	-18



Crop Weather Report

April 17, 2006

- Producers are getting started on fieldwork, behind last season
- Farmers are waiting for more suitable weather and fields to dry out before planting
- Topsoil moisture conditions ahead of last year; subsoil ahead of last year
- Winter wheat condition mostly good



Winter Wheat Crop Progress Nearly same as last year

April 17, 2006	This week	Last week	Last Year
Dormant	2%	13%	2%
Greening	18%	54%	17%
Greening & Growing	80%	33%	81%



Field Tillage Progress

Behind last year and the 5-year average

April 17, 2006	This week	Last week	Last Year	5 Yr Ave
None	61%	80%	40%	48%
Just Started	25%	14%	27%	26%
Well Underway	14%	6%	33%	26%



Winter Wheat

Condition slightly better than last year & way ahead the 5-year average

April 17, 2006	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	1%	5%	34%	46%	14%
Last week	1%	6%	43%	43%	7%
Last year	2%	7%	32%	45%	14%
5-yr ave	10%	14%	38%	32%	6%



Crop Progress

Seeding Completed

Behind last year & the 5-year average

April 17, 2006	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Barley	12%	7%	22%	18%
Oats	7%	2%	12%	9%
Spring Wheat	9%	2%	15%	10%
Durum Wheat	2%	0%	6%	2%



Topsoil Moisture

Improved from last year & the 5-yr average

April 17, 2006	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Ave
Very short	4%	3%	12%	16%
Short	14%	18%	33%	30%
Adequate	69%	71%	53%	50%
Surplus	13%	8%	2%	4%



Subsoil Moisture

Well ahead of last year & the 5-yr average

April 17, 2006	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Ave
Very short	10%	11%	38%	37%
Short	27%	32%	39%	35%
Adequate	58%	54%	22%	27%
Surplus	5%	3%	1%	1%



Livestock Grazing

April 17, 2006

- Pastures & range conditions significantly better than last year
- 84% of grazing land open - about the same as last year
- 77% cattle & calves & 80% sheep & lambs receiving supplemental feed



Calving & Lambing completed by *April 17, 2005*

- 84% of cows have calved
- 61% of ewes have lambed
- Calving & lambing rates ahead of last year



Range & Pasture Feed Condition

Significantly better than last year

April 17, 2006	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	3%	10%	42%	37%	8%
Last week	1%	11%	50%	31%	7%
Last year	19%	34%	33%	12%	2%



To Sum It Up

- Most grazing land open
- Most livestock receiving supplemental feed
- Farmers and ranchers are optimistic because of good moisture conditions across the state
- Moisture continues to improve growing conditions for winter wheat
- Farmers are waiting for more suitable weather to get into the fields

Conditions look better with moisture!



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